

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendments

Claims 1, 28, 31-33, 35, 50, 52 and 62-66 have been amended.
Claims 5-11, 21-23, 25, 30, 39, 40 and 47 have been cancelled.
Claims 72-75 have been newly added.
Claims 1-4, 12-20, 24, 26-29, 31-38, 41-46 and 48-75 are pending.

Per Examiner's Amendment

Claims 28, 33, 35, 41-46, 48, 49-62, 67 and 72 are amended.

Claims 1-4, 12-20, 24, 26-29, 31-38, 41-46 and 48-75 are allowed.

Response to Arguments

I. Applicant's arguments (see Remarks pages 19-21 filed 3/3/2009) with respect to Claims 1, 28, 33, 35, 50 and 52 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejections of the pending claims have therefore been withdrawn.

Examiner's Amendment

II. An Examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

III. Authorization for this Examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Atty. Steven Prewitt on May 18, 2009. Please make the following change to Claim 28, 33, 35, 41-46, 48-62, 67 and 72:

- **Claim 28:** (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method comprising:

an email service provider registering a user of an electronic device, as a service subscriber of the email service provider; and

the email service provider providing together a collection of email addresses, said collection of email addresses having at least a first and a second email address, said first and second email addresses being separate and distinct and being provided by the email service provider to the electronic device for subsequent selection and use by the electronic device to facilitate communication between the user and respectively, a first and a second intended communication partner or group of communication partners;

wherein the first and second email addresses are provided together as a collection of email addresses to the user of the electronic device by the email service provider prior to the first and second intended communication partner or group of communication partners initiating communication with the user of the electronic device.

- **Claim 33:** In line 1, between “A” and “method” insert—*computer-implemented*—.
- **Claim 35:** (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

providing notification or facilitating the provision of notification, from an electronic device of a user to an email service provider, of use of email addresses with intended communication partners, the notifications provided prior to the intended communication partners initiating communication with ~~[[a]]~~ the user;

receiving emails by ~~an~~ the electronic device of the user, from ~~an~~ the email service provider, wherein the emails are characterized based at least in part on separate and distinct email addresses of the user, and intended versus unintended communication partners of each of said email addresses of the user, and the email addresses of the user are provided to the electronic device for the user by the email service provider; and

presenting by the electronic device said emails for viewing by the user, organized by at least said email addresses of the user and said intended versus unintended communication partners of said email addresses.

- **Claim 41:** (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

a storage medium having stored therein a plurality of programming instructions designed to enable the apparatus, ~~[[()]]~~when the programming instructions are executed,~~[[()]]~~ to

obtain respectively a first and a second separate and distinct email address from an email service provider in real time for a user, at the first and second distinct email addresses' respective initial selection for usage, after subscription of email server with the email service provider by the user, correspondingly earmarking said first and second distinct email addresses to facilitate respective communication between the user and a first and a second intended communication partner or group of communication partners, and organizing received emails based at least in part on intended versus unintended communication partners of said first and second distinct email addresses; and

a processor coupled to the storage medium to execute the plurality of programming instructions.

▪ **Claim 42:** (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 41, wherein the programming instructions, [[()]]when executed,[[()]] further enable the apparatus to notify of said employment of the first and second distinct email addresses to facilitate respective communication between the user and the first and second intended communication partner or group of communication partners.

▪ **Claim 43:** (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 42, wherein the programming instructions, [[()]]when executed,[[()]] enable the apparatus to make said notifications integrally and respectively, when requesting for the first and second distinct email addresses from said email service provider.

▪ **Claim 44:** (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 42, wherein the programming instructions, [[()]]when executed,[[()]] enable the apparatus to make each of said notifications after having been provided with the respective first and second distinct email addresses from said email service provider.

▪ **Claim 45:** In line 3-4, replace “apparatus (when the programming instructions are executed) to” with—*apparatus, when the programming instructions are executed, to*—.

▪ **Claim 46:** In line 2, replace “instructions (when executed) enable” with—*instructions, when executed, enable*—.

▪ **Claim 48:** In line 2, replace “instructions (when executed) further” with—*instructions, when executed, further*—.

▪ **Claim 49:** In line 2, replace “instructions (when executed) enable” with—

instructions, when executed, enable—.

▪ **Claim 50:** In line 3-4, replace “apparatus (when the programming instructions are executed) to” with—*apparatus, when the programming instructions are executed, to—.*

▪ **Claim 51:** In line 2, replace “instructions (when executed) further” with—*instructions, when executed, further—.*

▪ **Claim 52:** In line 3-4, replace “apparatus (when the programming instructions are executed) to” with—*apparatus, when the programming instructions are executed, to—.*

▪ **Claim 53:** In line 2, replace “instructions (when executed) further” with—*instructions, when executed, further—.*

▪ **Claim 54:** In line 2, replace “instructions (when executed) further” with—*instructions, when executed, further—.*

▪ **Claim 55:** In line 2, replace “instructions (when executed) further” with—*instructions, when executed, further—.*

▪ **Claim 56:** In line 4-5, replace “system (when the programming instructions are executed) to” with—*system, when the programming instructions are executed, to—.*

▪ **Claim 57:** In line 2, replace “instructions (when executed) enable” with—*instructions, when executed, enable—.* In line 7, replace “usage,” with—*usage. —*

▪ **Claim 58:** In line 2, replace “instructions (when executed) further” with—*instructions, when executed, further—.*

▪ **Claim 59:** (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium comprising:

a storage medium; and

a plurality of programming instructions stored in the storage medium, the programming instructions designed to program a system, to enable the system₁ [[₍₁₎]when the programming instructions are executed,₁[[₍₁₎]] to register a user as a service subscriber of an email service, and to provide at least a first and a second email address, that are separate and distinct, to an electronic device of the user for use by the electronic device to facilitate respective communication between the user and the first intended communication partner or a first intended group of communication partners, and between the user and a second intended communication partner or a second intended group of communication partners, the provision being made in real time respectively at the first and second email addresses’ respective initial selection for usage

after enrollment of the user as a service subscriber of the email service provider, the first and second email addresses enabling differentiation of email received from intended versus unintended communication partners.

▪ **Claim 60:** In line 2, replace “instructions (when executed) enable” with—*instructions, when executed, enable—*.

▪ **Claim 61:** In line 2, replace “instructions (when executed) further” with—*instructions, when executed, further—*.

▪ **Claim 62:** (Currently Amended) A computer implemented method, comprising:
receiving by a computing device, from an email service provider, a plurality of separate and distinct email addresses as a set of email addresses;

detecting by the computing device[.], a need for an email address to be employed for communication with a first intended communication partner or partners;

automatically selecting by the computing device, a first email address from among the plurality of separate and distinct email addresses and storing information relating the first email address to the first intended communication partner or partners;

detecting by the computing device, a need for an email address to be employed for communications with a second intended communication partner or partners; and

automatically selecting by the computing device, a second email address from among the plurality of separate and distinct email addresses and storing information relating the second email address to the second intended communication partner or partners;

wherein the first and second email addresses are received together as a collection of email addresses prior to the first and second intended communication partner or partners initiating communication with the computing device.

▪ **Claim 67:** (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium, comprising:
a storage medium; and
a plurality of programming instructions stored in the storage medium that, when execute, enable a system to receive, from an email service provider, a plurality of separate and distinct email addresses as a set of email addresses; to detect a need for an email address to be employed for communication with a first intended communication partner or partners; to automatically select a first email address from among the plurality of separate and distinct email

addresses and to store information relating the first email address to the first intended communication partner or partners; to detect a need for an email address to be employed for communications with a second intended communication partner or partners; and to automatically select a second email address from among the plurality of separate and distinct email addresses and to store information relating the second email address to the second intended communication partner or partners; wherein the first and second email addresses are received together as a collection of email addresses prior to the first and second intended communication partner or partners initiating communication with the system.

▪ **Claim 72:** (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

means for receiving from an email service provider a first email address and a second email address, separate and distinct from the first email address[[,] ~~wherein the first and second email addresses are received together as a collection of email addresses;~~

means for providing the first received email address for use to register a user with a first intended web site; and

means for providing the second received email address for use to register the user with a second intended web site,

wherein the first and second email addresses are received together as a collection of email addresses in advance of providing the first and second email addresses to the first and second intended web sites,

wherein the means for providing the first and second email addresses comprises means for selecting the first and second email addresses from the collection of email addresses to facilitate communication with intended versus unintended communication partners.

Reasons for Allowance

The following is an Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance

IV. The prior art fails to teach or suggest the features of providing separate and distinct email addresses (as a collection of email addresses) by the email provider in advance of, prior to or in real time to the user employing the addresses for respective intended versus unintended

communication partners as disclosed in the above claims (for support, see Specification pages 11-14). The prior art does not specifically teach these limitations singly or in combination such that the claimed invention would have been anticipated or made obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art. Applicant's arguments further clarify the distinctions between the claim language and the prior art and are thus relied upon by the Examiner as sufficient reasons for allowance, satisfying the record as whole as required by rule 37 CFR 1.104 (e) (see MPEP 13202.14). A review of Claims 1-4, 12-20, 24, 26-29, 31-38, 41-46 and 48-75, in view of the Examiner's remarks above, indicates that these claims are therefore allowable over the prior art of record.

Any comments considered necessary by Applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

V. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Kristie Shingles whose telephone number is 571-272-3888. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:30-6:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, William Vaughn can be reached on 571-272-3922. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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